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LAND USE PLANNING

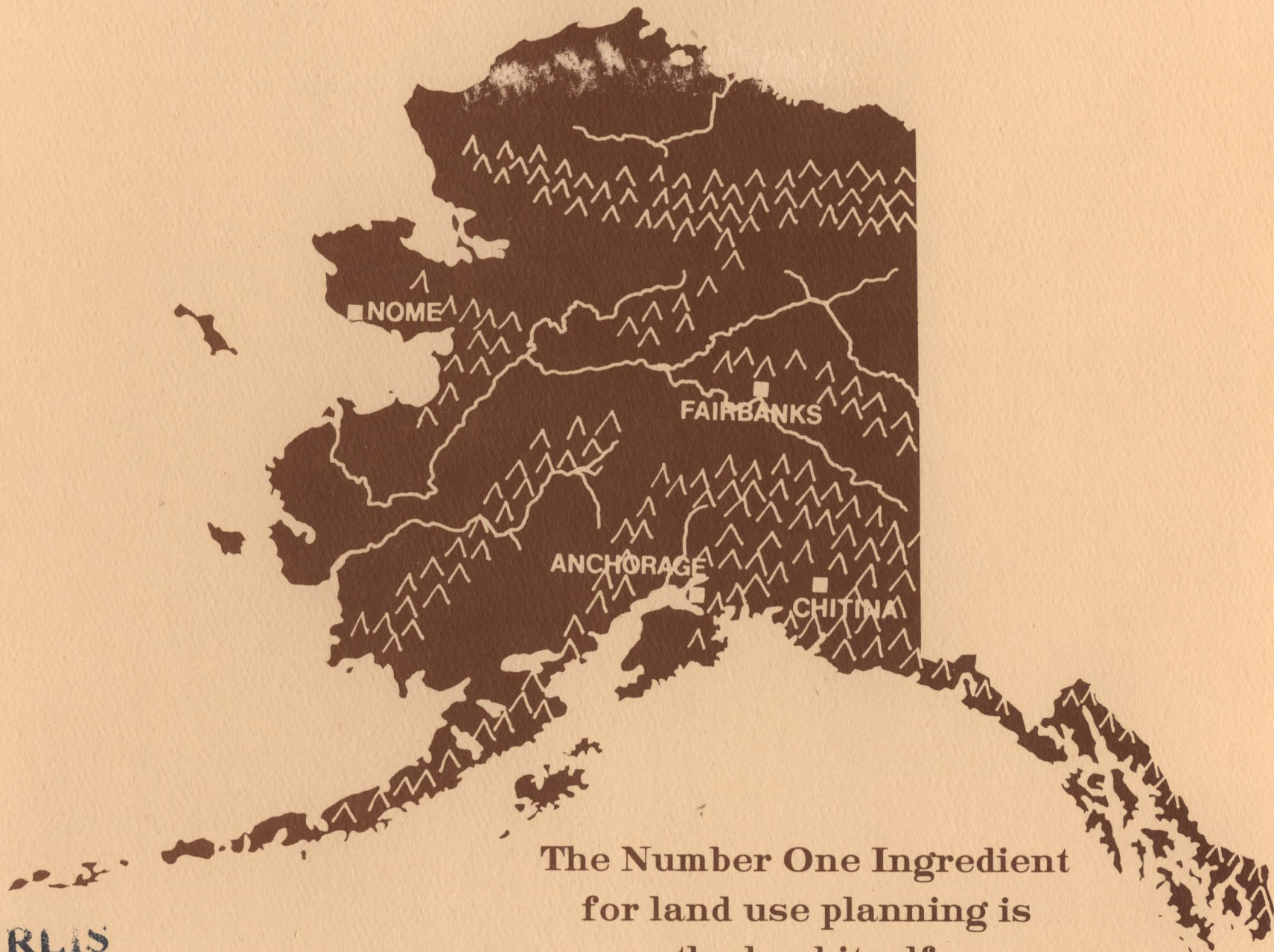
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



The Number One Ingredient
for land use planning is
the land itself.

Land Use Planning

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THE PRESENT PATTERN of land ownership and jurisdiction in the United States of America is largely the result of historic trends rather than firm planning. The result has often been a haphazard intermingling of ownership and jurisdiction. In many cases, even today there is more emphasis on ownership than on wise use of the land which is owned. But America's Natural Resource Lands are not an inexhaustible natural resource.

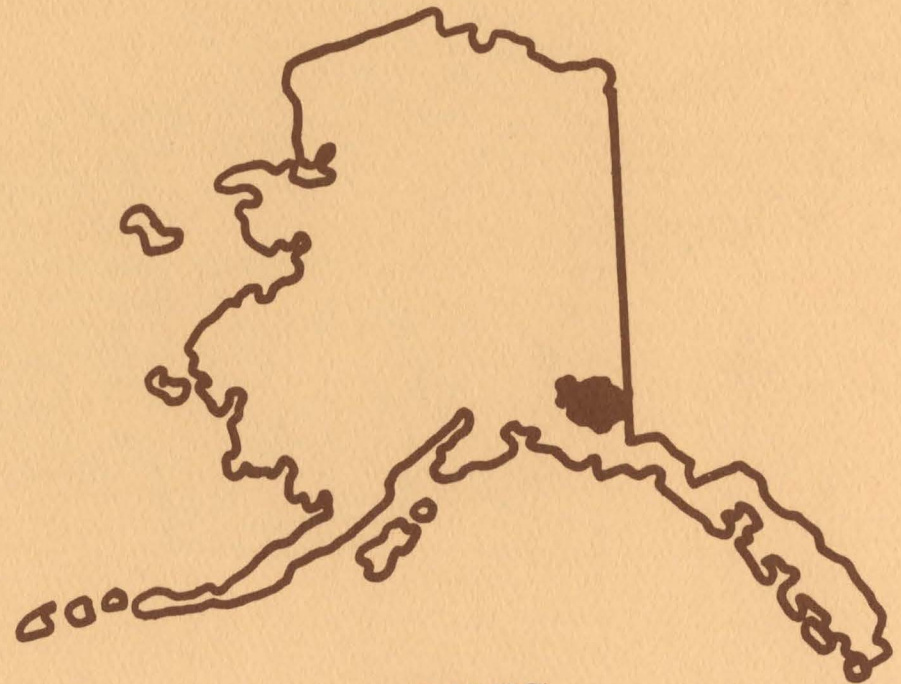
"THE ENVIRONMENT" has become an issue in recent years, as did "conservation" before it. Both ideas, stated another way, are that man cannot continue to consider only his own desires and needs: to use the land wisely, he must work within natural laws.

Alaska is more fortunate than many other states because much of the land is relatively untouched by man's influence. Alaska has vast contrasts in topography, land use capabilities, and land use limitations. All of these can be considered today, because land use planning is a reality. The desires, needs, and use pressures of man dictate which areas of Alaska are planned first.

THE PERFECT PLAN is impossible to produce; planning must be dynamic to provide for present and future public demands. One of the best planning systems in use today is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning System. This booklet discusses the "how-to" of BLM's land use planning.

ALASKA IS BIG, and someday there will be comprehensive land use plans for all of it. At present more is known about

some areas than others. One area about which much is known is the Chitina Valley. This booklet, used as a working tool, shows the steps to be followed when the BLM Planning System is applied to the Chitina Valley. The same multiple-use planning principles and methods are used from the deserts of Arizona to the Chitina Valley in Alaska. The Chitina Valley is located in south-east central Alaska, as shown by the outline map below.

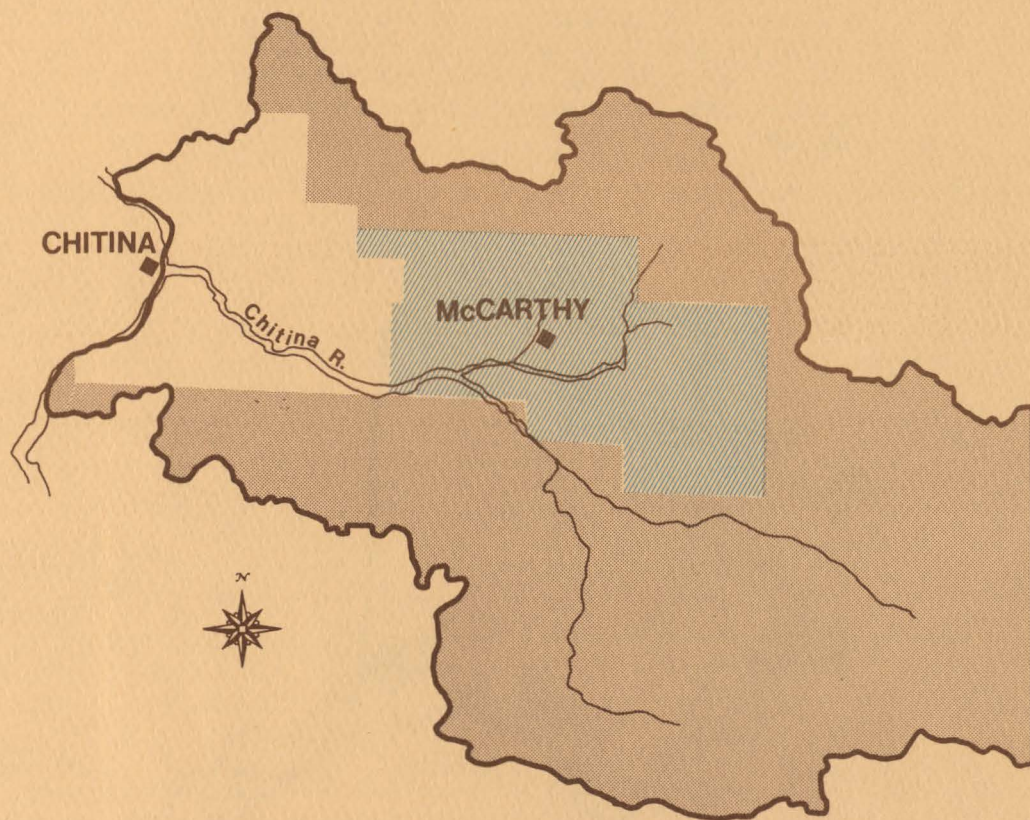


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Consider the Ecology of the Area



EARLY INTERIOR INDIANS were the first to use the area now known as the Chitina Valley. They used the Copper River as a route to the sea and as a means to contact the coastal Chugach Eskimos. Later, the white man discovered minerals in the area and introduced mining as a land use. Neither aboriginal use nor mining development was part of an overall land use plan; the concept had not been thought of yet.

INFORMATION GATHERING began in 1966 for a BLM planning effort in the Wrangell Mountains, on an area BLM called the Wrangell Mountains Planning Unit. In 1971 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was passed, and in 1972 the land contained in the planning unit was placed into two categories, known as D-1 and D-2 withdrawals. These are also known, respectively, as public interest and national interest withdrawals. D-1 lands were withdrawn for study and review to determine what future management should be. D-2 lands were withdrawn for study for possible inclusion in National Forests, National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and Wild and Scenic River Systems.

THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN D-1 AND D-2 lands, as shown on the Chitina Valley map, was drawn along straight lines, perhaps more suitable to the surveyors' legal description of the land than to an actual management boundary. Effective multiple-use planning requires consideration of ecosystems, resources, economics, and social factors. All of these have been included within an ecologically manageable unit; the BLM's Chitina Valley Planning Unit follows the boundaries of the Chitina Valley watershed.

BLM'S PLANNING SYSTEM takes into consideration ecological inter-relationships, and also man's desires, needs, wants, and uses for land. While there are many ideas of what should—or should not—be planned in the D-1 and D-2 areas of the Chitina Valley, the BLM's planning system assigns no initial overall priority to any specific use or uses.

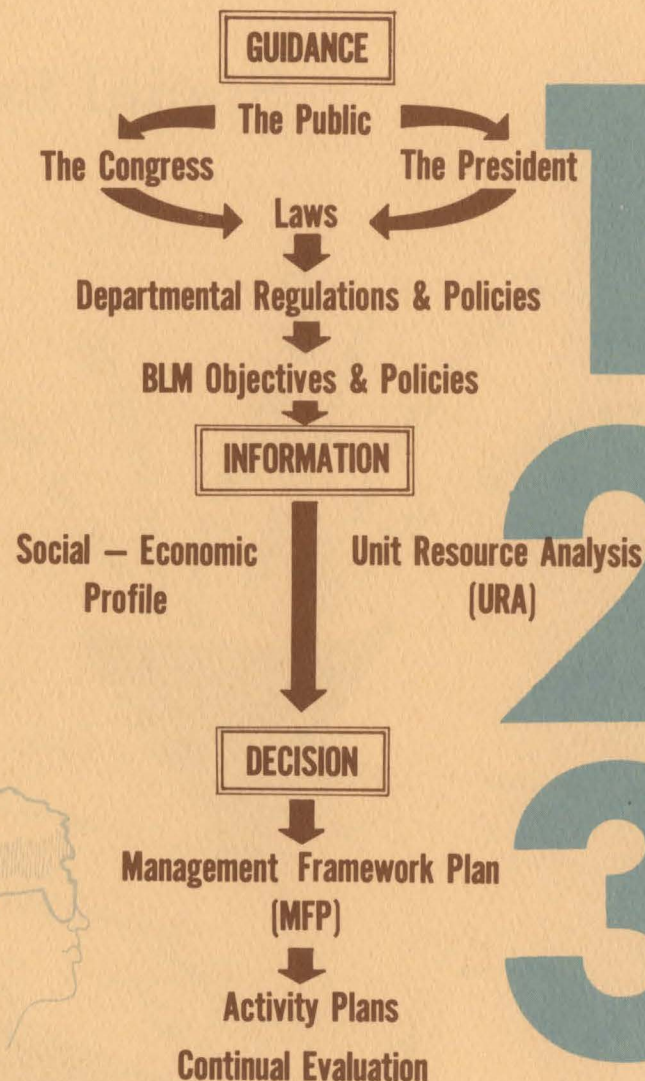
BLM Planning Summarized

BASIC GUIDANCE for BLM's Planning System is the public, who, through the Congress and the President, make their needs and desires known as "laws of the land." The U.S. Department of the Interior is guided or restricted by these laws when developing policies and regulations. In turn, these policies and regulations guide BLM in the establishment of its management objectives and policies. Other guidance includes assumptions for technological improvements, projections for economic growth, and social trends, to name a few.

ACTUAL PLANNING BEGINS with the gathering of detailed data directly or indirectly related to a specific geographic area called a Planning Unit. The data is an information base upon which interdisciplinary planning is undertaken, to identify and resolve land use and resource use conflicts. Decisions are made, then detailed development or action plans are prepared for each activity or resource program.

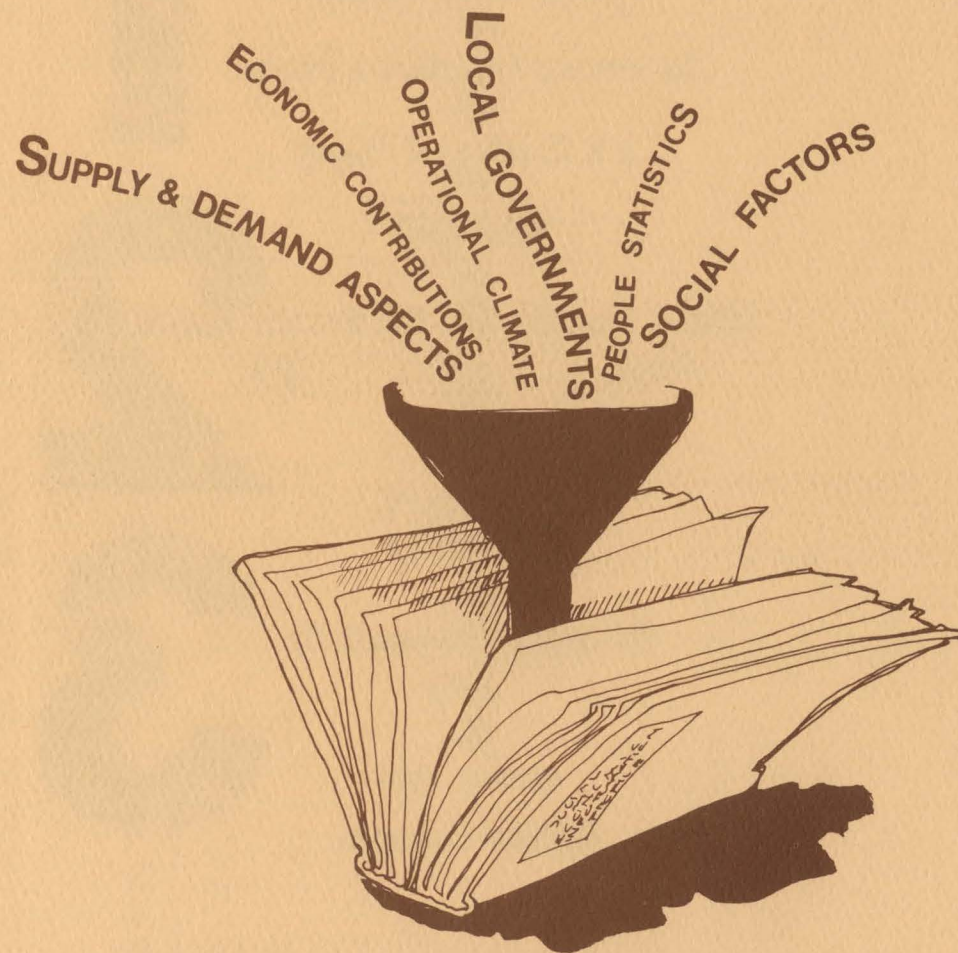
NEW DATA may appear at any time, and it may be necessary to back up and repeat all or part of a planning step, or a number of steps. Once the entire plan is approved it is subject to continual evaluation and updating. Internal review and public reaction are two elements of continual evaluation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION is not restricted to any single part of the BLM's Planning System. The public is involved throughout the planning process, through informal individual contacts, meetings, to formal public hearings. Much of the information for a planning unit is obtained from people who live in or are closely associated with the land and its resources. Later, these same people have the opportunity to examine alternatives for management of the planning unit and to help decide what future management should be.



The three main components of the planning process are Guidance, Information, and Decision, along with the action and evaluation aspects of BLM's Planning System. The remainder of this booklet will discuss in detail the Information and Decision-making elements of BLM's Planning System, using the Chitina Valley Planning Unit as an example.

Social-Economic Profile



HUMAN NEEDS DEFINE RESOURCES. The early Indians had no way to use the minerals so eagerly sought by the white man; what may have been merely pretty rock to the Indian was a valuable mineral discovery to the white man. In land-use planning, other factors must be considered than just those which relate to resource supply and demand. How is the land used, and who is affected by the use?

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS are part of the "operational climate" in which the BLM does business. Since planning for land-use implies planning for people-uses, "people characteristics" must be considered. For example, what is the impact of national resource land resources on local business? Does this contribute substantially to the local economy? What is the effect of existing cooperative relationships between agencies, local governments and land users? What "people needs" can be satisfied with the land's resources? Are statistics available to help document these needs and their impact on the land's resources?

THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PROFILE asks these and other questions. The answers help to identify and support the types of resource use and degree of management needed in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit. The profile helps identify major problems concerning economics, resources, social factors, and ecosystems. The coordination needed with others to resolve these problems and similar general information is identified by the Social-Economic Profile.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA)

THE PHYSICAL RESOURCES INVENTORY portion of the Information component of the planning system is called the "Unit Resource Analysis." It is an inventory and analysis of the resources in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit. The Unit Resource Analysis, or URA, describes and analyzes the current production, problems, use, condition, and trend data of record for all natural resources within the planning unit. The URA identifies capabilities and opportunities to increase production and use, or to improve conditions through development. The information in the URA is available for various planning processes, particularly environmental assessments, in BLM's planning system.

THE URA IS NOT A PLAN. It is an information bank where data about the land and its resources is accumulated for analysis and use. Much information exists, but in the past this information has been found in many places and often in forms unsuitable for use in planning. The URA information bank eliminates this shortcoming for a specific planning unit by providing a source of readily accessible information once data has been collected.

URA's Four steps:

1. Base Map
2. Physical Profile
3. Present Situation
4. Resource Potentials

URA Step One:

THE FIRST STEP of the Unit Resource Analysis is the development of a suitable Base Map. The map at the right shows the Wrangell Mountains Planning Unit, of which the Chitina Valley is a part. For illustrative purposes, this booklet applies the BLM Planning System to the Chitina Valley Planning Unit. The Base Map of the Chitina Valley Planning Unit shows the location of private and national resource lands, roads, towns, major improvements, and rivers.

THE HEART OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM is the practice of relating information on physical land and mineral resources directly to actual physical locations within the planning unit. Information of this type is tied to some resource on the ground, whose physical location is exactly known. This data is assembled both in narrative form and on transparent sheets called "overlays." When placed over the Base Map, the overlays show the distribution of physical and biological resources in the Chitina Planning Unit.

PLANNING UNITS whose boundaries are based on resources, ecosystems, economics and social factors are generally large enough with boundaries significant enough to include most inter-relationships within the planning unit. These planning units are, in a word, manageable units. However, inter-unit and outside influences, such as wildlife migration, may require coordination and appropriate references.

The Base Map

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URA Step Two:

THE SECOND STEP of the Unit Resource Analysis is the Physical Profile. It assembles data on climate, topography, hydrology, vegetation, soils, and geology. This analysis covers all lands in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit, regardless of land ownership or jurisdiction.

CLIMATE data includes information on precipitation, temperatures, wind, frost-free growing season, and the limiting effects of climate.

TOPOGRAPHY data includes general relief of the planning unit, mountain and valley structure, elevational differences, drainage patterns, and general gradients.

HYDROLOGY data includes all water resources in the planning unit: the location of live streams, springs, reservoirs, wells, and the extent of ground water supplies if known.

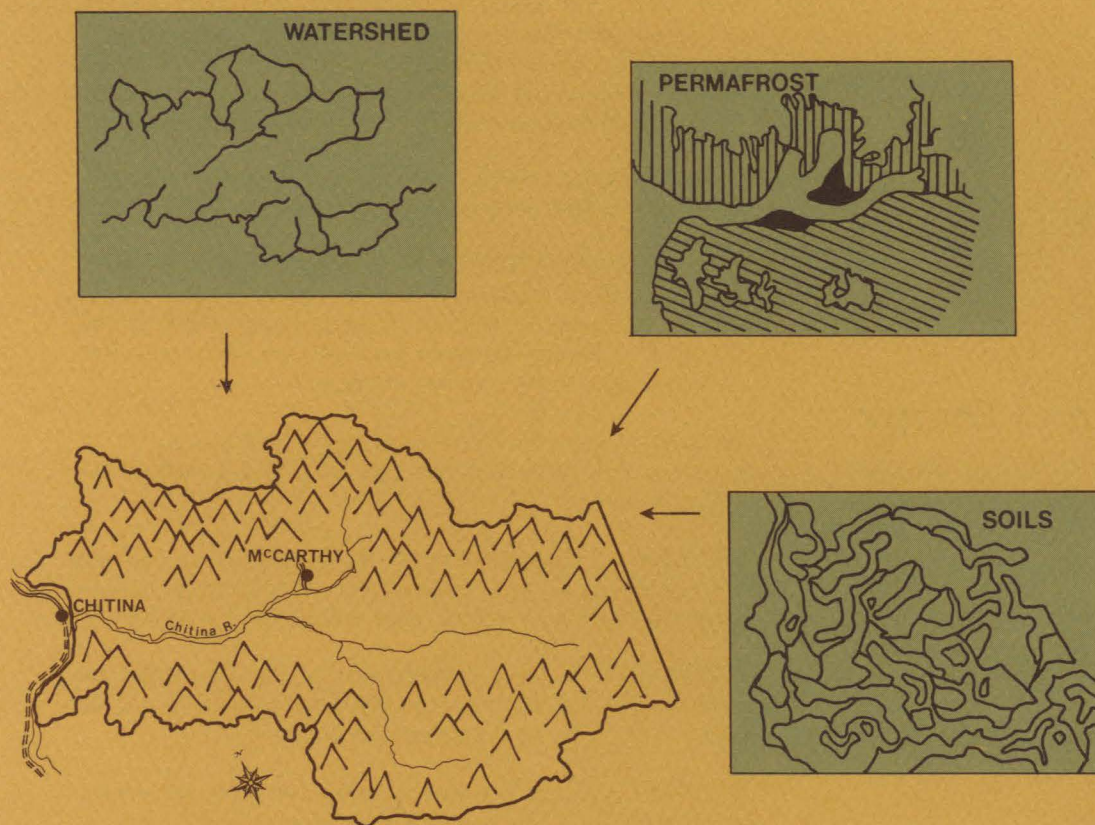
VEGETATION data includes the major types of vegetation in the planning unit, the extent of coverage, and locations. Variations due to elevational differences or exposure are described.

SOILS data includes soil associations, and—to the extent it is available—such information as parent material, depth, fertility, texture, structure, ease of revegetation, and erodability.

GEOLOGY data is confined to the general surface characteristics of the planning unit, identifying those certain characteristics that may be of particular importance to the management of the planning unit.

SPECIAL INFORMATION may be required for planning units in Alaska. Information on permafrost, for example, does not fit well into any of the categories of the Physical Profile.

Physical Profile



THE CHITINA PLANNING UNIT

For purposes of illustration only three Physical Profile overlays are shown.

URA Step Three:

Resources Considered:

Lands

Minerals and Energy

Timber

Livestock Forage

Watershed

Wildlife Habitat

Recreation

THE THIRD STEP of the Unit Resource Analysis is an inventory of the resources of the area and man's activity. Enough information is needed to understand the significance, inter-relationships and problems in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit. An analysis and record is made of current use, problems, trends and production for each of seven resource categories.

LANDS includes current land use, land ownership, and lands actions which have occurred in the planning unit.

MINERALS AND ENERGY includes the location of mineral developments on privately owned or Federal lands, information on ownership of minerals in the planning unit, locations and types of mining claims on Federal lands, and information on oil and gas and other energy resources.

TIMBER includes the location and quantity of existing timber resources, and the amount and type of use being made of the timber resource.

LIVESTOCK FORAGE depicts the livestock grazing management situation in the planning unit. Domesticated reindeer grazing on national resource lands is considered if applicable.

WATERSHED includes a description of the watershed conditions, including erosion, watershed improvements, and problems and needs. In Alaska permafrost areas are shown.

WILDLIFE HABITAT considers species of big game, upland game, waterfowl, fish, rare and endangered wildlife, fur bearers, and non-game and other species whose habitat in the planning unit may require special management attention.

RECREATION includes such values as scenery, wildlife, cultural features, geologic features, water bodies, snow and ice where winter sports are feasible, ecological features, recreation sites, and primitive or wilderness areas.

The Present Situation

MINERALS AND ENERGY

Two minerals stand out above all others. These are copper and gold, and both have had a long history of development in the Chitina Valley area.

TIMBER

Both in quality and quantity, forest lands are directly related to the distance from stream valley floors.

LANDS

With the exception of two areas, the Chitina Valley Planning Unit has been classified for Federal retention for multiple-use management.

LIVESTOCK FORAGE

The most important classes of forage plants are native grasses, sedges, and forbs—used by pack horses on seven grazing leases.

WATERSHED

Eighty per cent of the unit is underlain by permafrost which in itself creates an erosion hazard.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Moose are the most widespread big game animal, occupying all of the habitat at some time during the year, except for glaciers and very steep slopes above timberline.

RECREATION

There are several outstanding ecological communities and areas with primitive value or high scenic values.



URA Step Four:

THE FOURTH STEP of the Unit Resource Analysis is analysis of the capability or opportunities for development of each of the seven resource categories. Individual consideration is essential to learn the full capability and potential of each separate resource.

"TUNNEL VISION" or "no constraints" is the point of view used in URA Step Four to look at each resource. There is no concern for any multiple-use considerations other than those built into basic inventorying techniques in Step Two, the Physical Profile. Only technical constraints are imposed: the full potential must be technically feasible for management. Each resource is evaluated as if it were the only resource which exists in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit.

WHAT WOULD YOU PLAN if you had the money and time to do anything technically possible in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit? Although a total of at least seven resource specialists have made their plans, the separate plans of the Recreation specialist, the Minerals specialist, and the Watershed specialist are summarized on the next page. Their planning in Step Four of the URA is single-use planning, without economic restraints; it is not limited by the concept of multiple use management.

**... evaluating each resource
as if it were the only one
which exists ...**



Resource Potentials

Unrelated single-use plans, designed with "tunnel vision"

RECREATION

- Scenic corridor
- Primitive areas
- Areas for intensive recreation use
- Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers
- Off-Road Vehicle use areas
- Natural Research areas
- National Landmarks
- National Historic Sites

MINERALS

- Copper
- Gold
- Molybdenum
- Nickel
- Unlimited exploration and access
- Placer mining
- Mineral development

WATERSHED

- Restrict permafrost areas (80.7 per cent of the Chitina Valley Planning Unit) from any use resulting in vegetative damage or erosion
- Require proper watershed management in permafrost areas

Much has been learned about the Chitina Valley Planning Unit — but no decisions have been made on how the area will be managed.

Management Framework Plan (MFP)



THE MFP is a “general” and “multiple-use” plan designed to display how a given geographic area should be managed. As its name implies, it is a plan which sets up a framework for management. Basically the MFP involves a process designed to identify and reconcile land use and resource use conflicts.

IN A BROAD SENSE, the MFP does not “plan for” certain uses; that is, the plan is not initiated with the assumption that specific uses are the highest and best use of the land. Instead, planning proceeds without prior judgments, as objectively as possible. The land use or combination of uses which emerge are those which will best achieve the objectives of multiple-use. The widest range of beneficial uses is sought without undue environmental degradation, risk to health and safety, or other undesirable consequences. This includes optimum production of products and services from national resource lands in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit, consistent with acceptable environmental quality and preservation of natural values.

IN MFP STEP ONE, information from URA Step Four is used by each resource specialist to design a practical plan for his resource. As in URA Step Four, he uses tunnel vision to design a single-use plan, unaffected by multiple-use considerations. Unlike URA Step Four, this plan must include legal, economic, time and other constraints. The finished plan must be practical enough, that if accepted, it could be put into effect in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit. Lands, Minerals and Energy, Timber, Livestock Forage, Watershed, Wildlife Habitat and Recreation plans are designed by resource specialists in those fields in MFP Step One.

THE “ADVERSARY CONCEPT” is the basis of MFP Step Two. Each resource specialist has developed the best possible plan for his resource, and now the seven resource specialists sit down together and each advocates adoption of his plan. Conflicts, overlaps, inconsistencies and problems are noted and analyzed. The environment is considered in the MFP, although there is no single step called “The Environment.” Each situation calls for specific assessment of physical and biological factors analyzed in the Unit Resource Analysis.

THE MULTIPLE-USE PLANNERS in MFP Step Two can plan for no more production of products or services than the land is capable of producing; nor more land use or activities than the land can safely absorb. Alternative solutions to various conflicts, overlaps, problems and inconsistencies are identified and proposed. These alternatives, worked out by compromise among resource specialists representing seven resources, are called multiple-use recommendations.

NO DECISIONS YET, HOWEVER! The multiple-use recommendations for management are exactly that: recommendations. The active assistance and participation of the public has helped to identify resources, problems, and needs. Now public help is needed to determine which, if any, of the multiple-use recommendations is the best solution for multiple use management of the Chitina Valley Planning Unit.

EVERYBODY ISN'T HAPPY with the decisions announced by the BLM District Manager in MFP Step Three, because one person may believe one land use to be more important than another. While everyone has his own opinion, it is impossible to say "yes" to everyone. Multiple use management requires a careful combination of uses and activities on the same land area to best serve the public. A working compromise, rather than complete satisfaction, is a worthy goal.

DECISIONS made provide a set of broad objectives and constraints which guide and influence the management of the Chitina Valley Planning Unit. More detailed action and development plans for each resource activity are then developed with the MFP serving as a guide. These plans are called activity plans. Land users are consulted as these plans are developed. The plans are translated into action programs when funds are appropriated; this involves the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of the Budget, the President, and Congress. This is the point where BLM's program becomes very specific to the many users and interests involved. Both BLM and the public will evaluate the results of programs to see if the plans are working and what changes, if any, would be desirable.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS BOOKLET discusses MFP Steps One, Two and Three, using examples to show how they are applied to the Chitina Valley Planning Unit. Only the Recreation, Minerals and Watershed resources are considered, to better illustrate the planning process. In actual practice, all resources would have to be simultaneously considered.

Steps in an MFP:

Step One: Activity Recommendations

Step Two: Multiple-Use Recommendations

Step Three: Decisions

MFP Step One:

Activity Recommendations

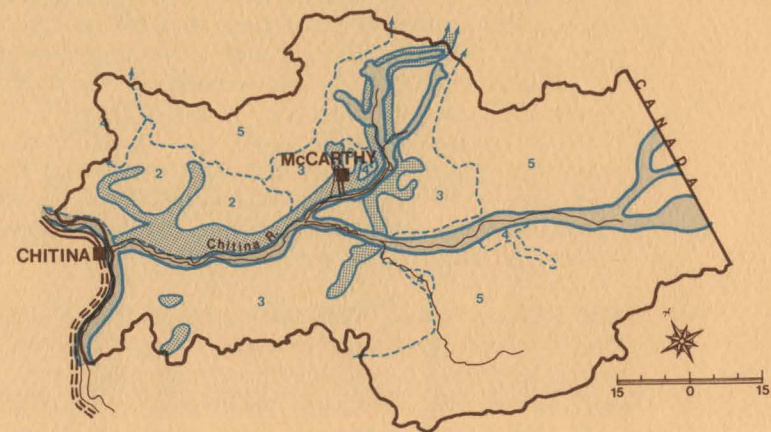
WHAT WOULD BE BEST for each resource? Three of the seven independent resource plans developed in MFP Step One are shown here. Beneath each is a Base Map of the Chitina Valley Planning Unit; information in the plan relates directly to actual physical locations depicted on the map. In actual practice, plans, maps and overlays are much more complicated than this admittedly much-simplified example.



RECREATION

Recreation Activity Recommendations are planning unit-wide:

1. Evaluate existing studies of off-road vehicle effects.
2. Open only specified areas to off-road vehicle use and horse access with specific plans which include enforcement provisions.
3. Provide a public-use cabins system.
4. Locate, inventory and nominate all lands which qualify for the National Register of Historic Places, National Landmarks, or Natural Research programs.
5. Protect all archeological and historic resources until evaluation.
6. Develop master landscape standards and criteria.
7. Establish a cooperative recreation management agreement with local Native Regional Corporation, the State of Alaska, and Canada.
8. Provide areas for public interpretative sites.
9. Establish a "people influence" management zone and provide for intensive recreation use areas.
10. Include Chitina and Nizina Rivers in National Wild, Scenic, or Recreational Rivers study.



MINERALS

Minerals Activity Recommendations affect known mineral extraction areas or potential resource areas.

In Known Extraction Areas:

1. Allow for further development.
2. Manage mineral development to allow for orderly development.
3. Allow for public mineral rock collection areas.
4. Recommend intensive minerals and geological investigation.

In Potential Extraction Areas:

1. Allow surface access to mineralized areas.
2. Allow further prospecting of potential resource areas.



WATERSHED

Watershed Activity Recommendations are planning unit-wide and also affect restricted use zones and management zones.

Planning Unit-wide:

1. Maintain present water quality.
2. Conduct intensive inventories of the Chitina Valley Watershed.
3. Manage use of heavy equipment on national resource lands.
4. Prohibit building of dams or other "improvements" which would trap water over permafrost areas, causing accelerated erosion.
5. Protect all streams with buffer strips.

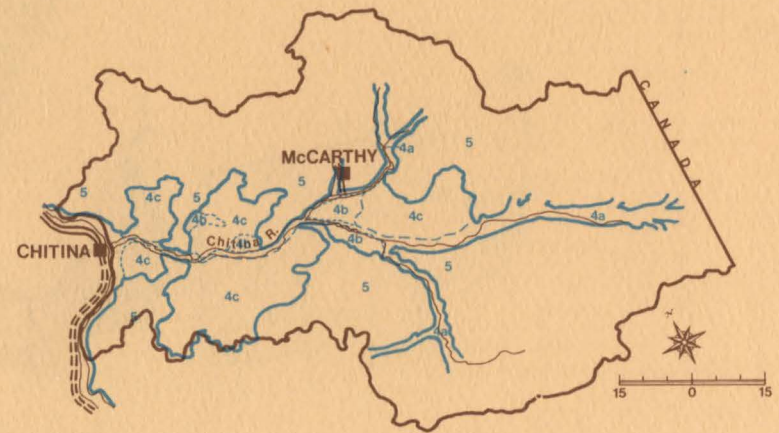
In Restricted Use Zones:

(Flood hazard zones, critical erosion hazard zones, and "clear" or quality water zones are Restricted Use Zones.)

1. Prohibit development such as construction or mining.
2. Restrict all use which may damage vegetative mat.

In Management Zone:

1. In permafrost areas, provide for minimum disturbance of surface vegetation.
2. In permafrost-free areas, allow uses limited only terrain, with normal precautions to prevent accelerated erosion and degradation of water quality.



MFP Step Two: Multiple Use Recommendations

THE SECOND STEP OF THE MFP is development of multiple-use recommendations. The concept of tunnel vision is discarded in favor of the "adversary concept." Each resource specialist advocates adoption of his MFP Step One activity recommendation, but he listens to the representatives of other resources to identify conflicts or overlaps between his plan and their plans.

OVERLAYS ON THE NEXT PAGE were made to tie the MFP Step One recommendation to resource problems on the ground. In Step Two of the MFP, two or more of these overlays are used to identify conflicts and overlaps between activity recommendations. Wherever lines overlap, there is a potential management conflict.



BLM'S PLANNING SYSTEM readily identifies conflicts in a manner which helps frame solutions to these conflicts. The planning system does not automatically solve the conflicts identified; not all conflicts can be resolved or even reduced. In MFP Step Two the single-use recommendations developed in MFP Step One are compared and weighed in relation to each other. This may be done by comparing the separate overlays on the next page to each other in relation to the Chitina Valley Planning Unit map.

LET'S LOOK AT A CONFLICT depicted on the overlays. The conflict is located midway between the towns of Chitina and McCarthy, centered about five miles north of the Chitina River. The conflict, as shown by the overlays, concerns Recreation, Minerals, and Watershed.



IN MFP STEP ONE, Recreation advocated a "people influence" zone and a general recreation area which would receive intensive recreation use. Minerals advocated allowing further development of known extraction areas, and surface access to potential resource areas. Watershed advocated prohibiting of development such as construction or mining, and restriction of all use which may damage the vegetative mat. Watershed found the area was largely a "clear" or quality water zone, with two smaller areas of critical erosion hazard. Overlapping lines identify specific conflicts.

The Chitina Valley Planning Unit

RECREATION

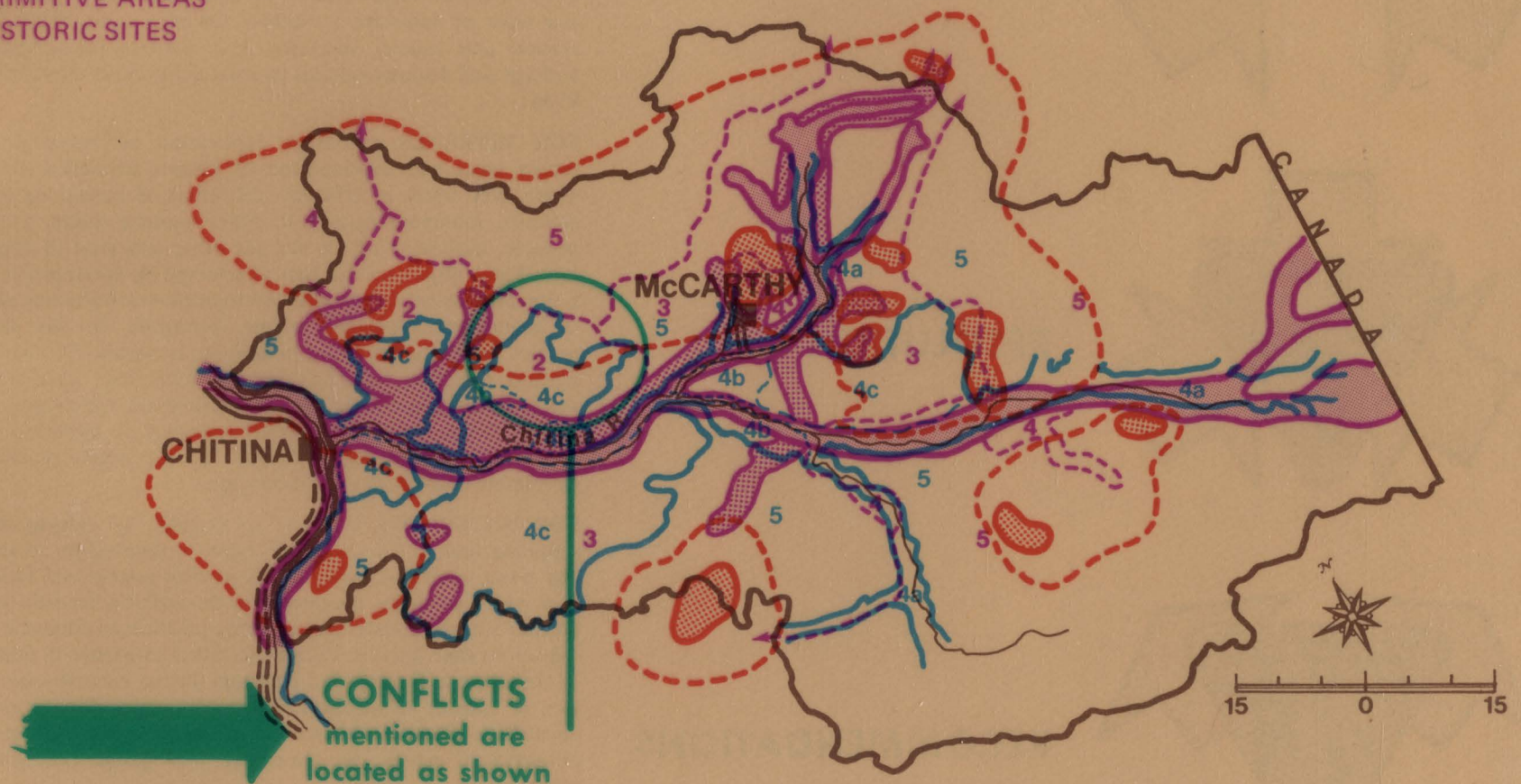
-  WILD & SCENIC RIVER
-  PEOPLE INFLUENCE AREAS
- 2 GENERAL RECREATION AREAS
- 3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREAS
- 4 OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREAS
- 5 PRIMITIVE AREAS
- 6 HISTORIC SITES

MINERALS

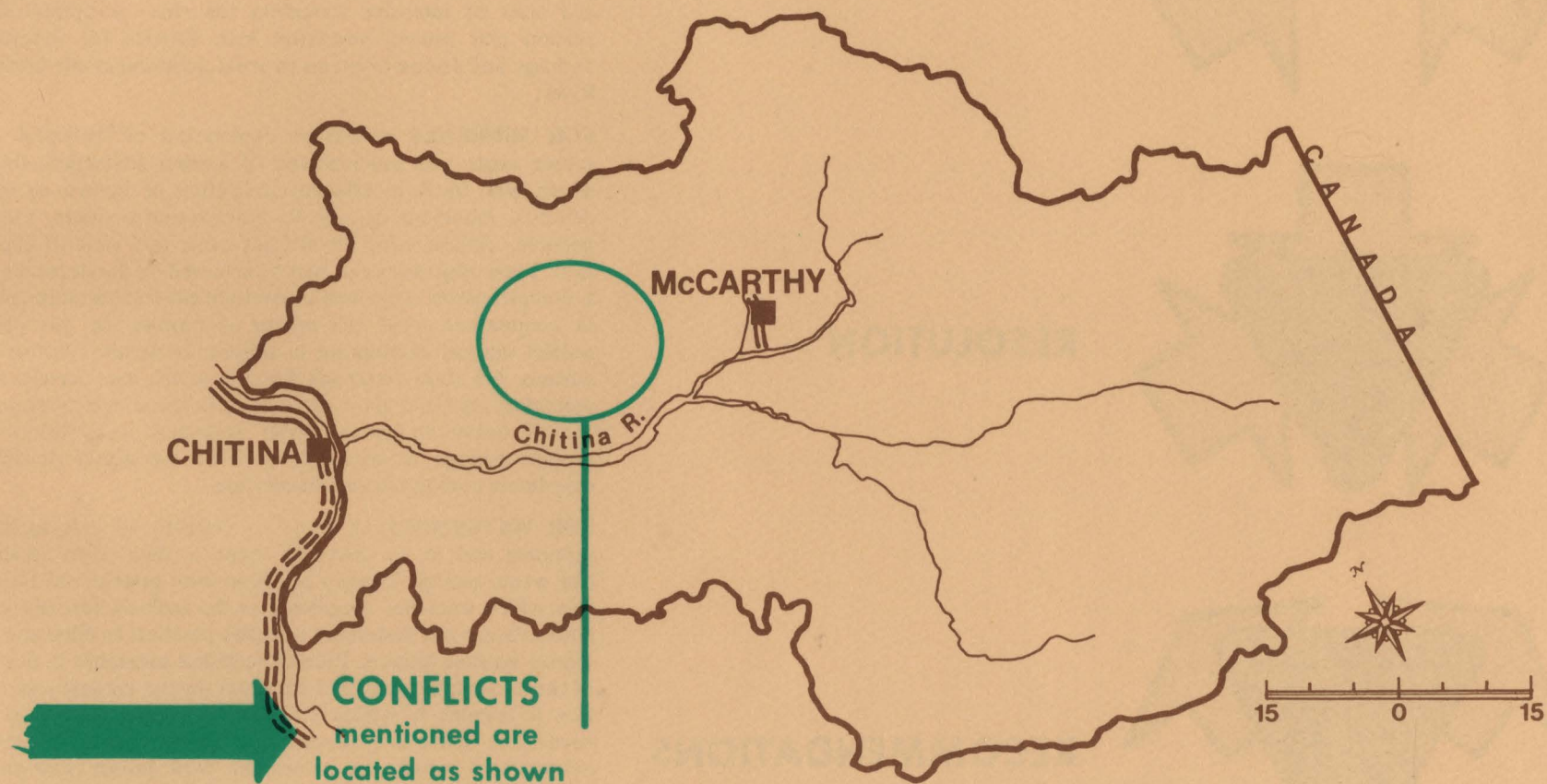
-  KNOWN EXTRACTION AREAS
-  POTENTIAL RESOURCE AREAS

WATERSHED

- 4 RESTRICTED USE ZONE
- 4a FLOOD HAZARD
- 4b CRITICAL EROSION
- 4c QUALITY WATERSHED
- 5 MANAGEMENT ZONE





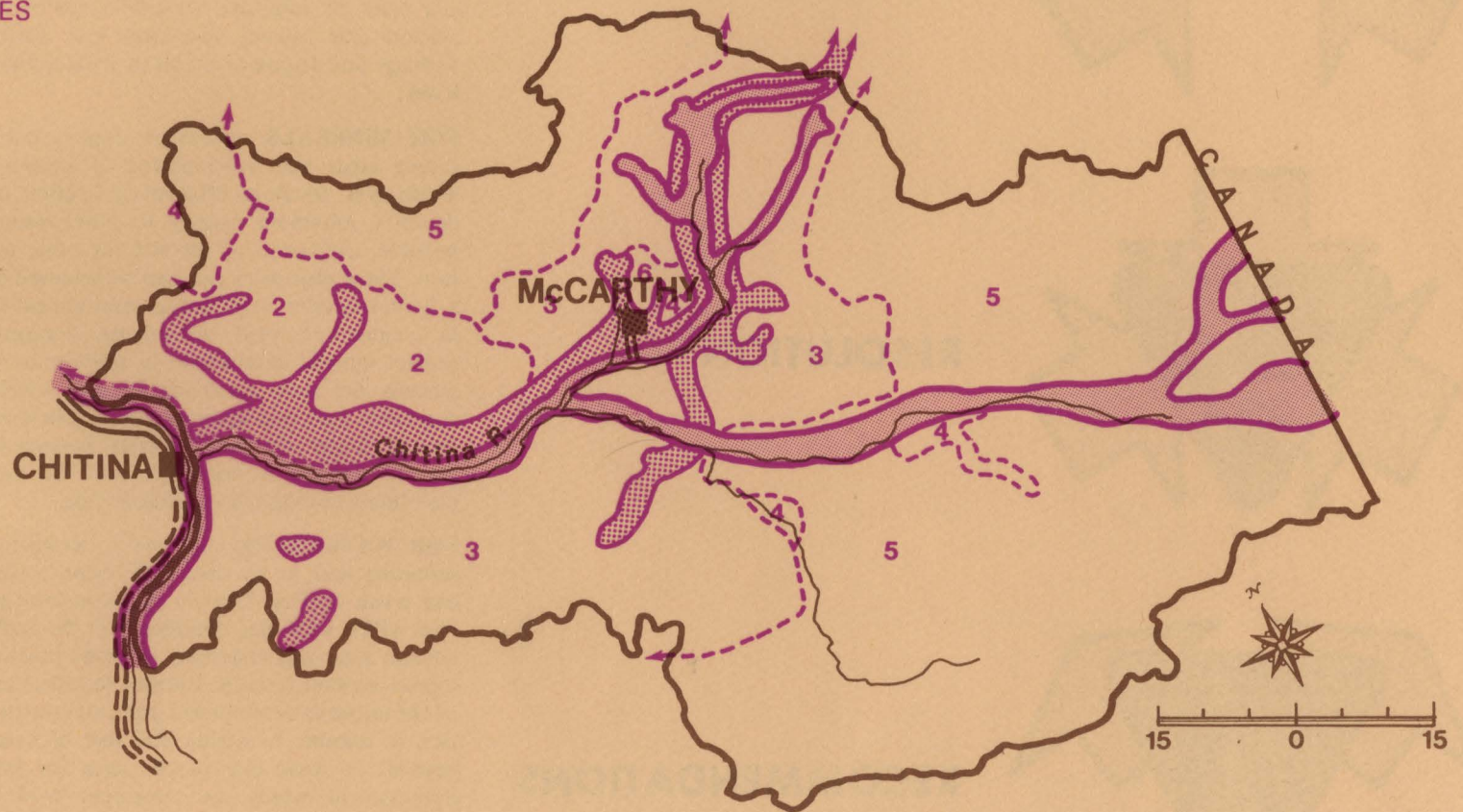
The Chitina Valley Planning Unit



The Chitina Valley Planning Unit



RECREATION

-  WILD & SCENIC RIVER
-  PEOPLE INFLUENCE AREAS
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The Chitina Valley Planning Unit

MINERALS

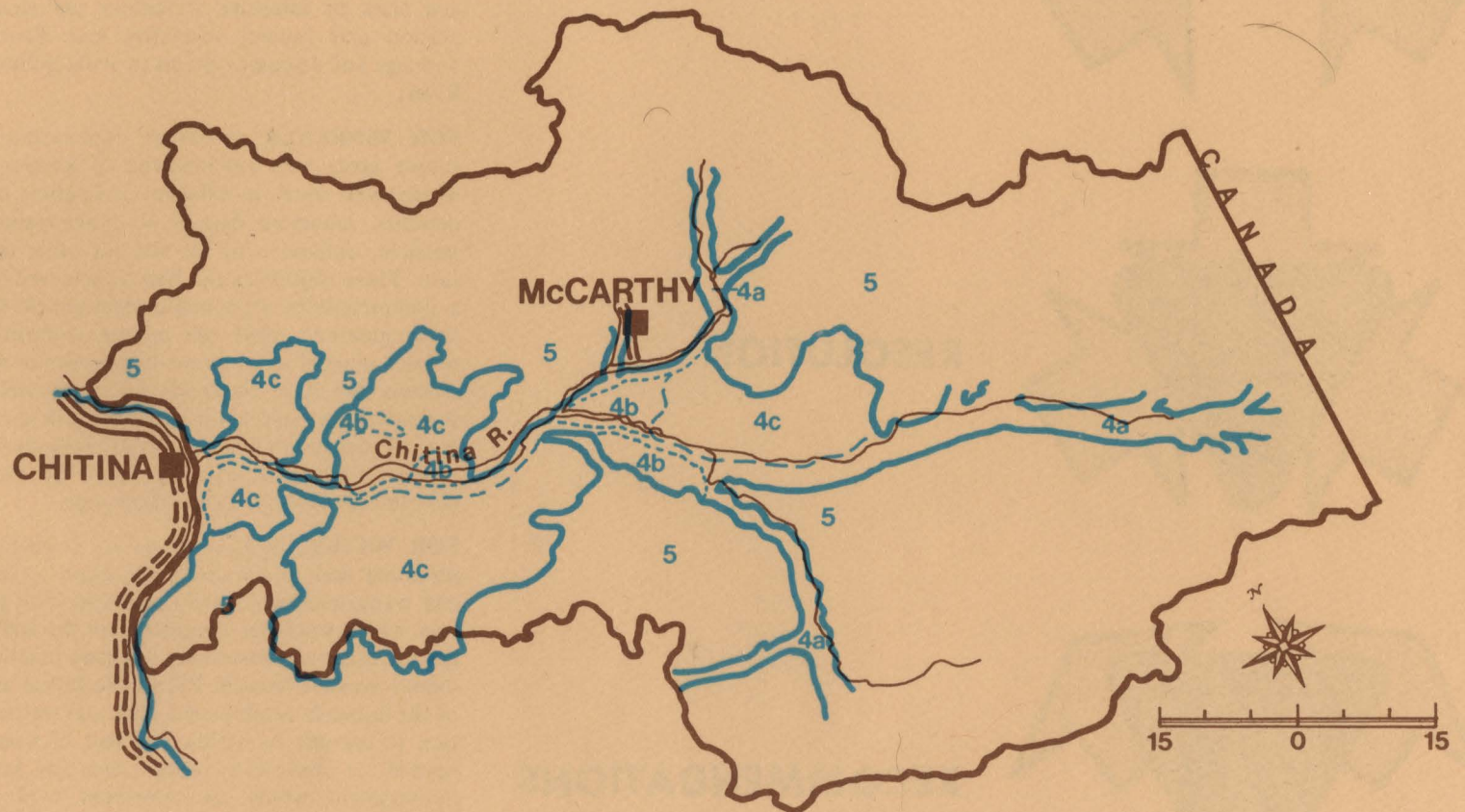
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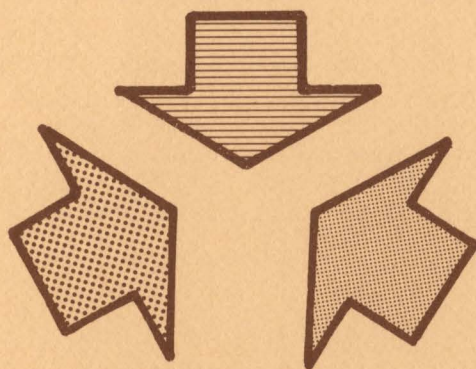
The Chitina Valley Planning Unit

WATERSHED

- 4 RESTRICTED USE ZONE
- 4a FLOOD HAZARD
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- 5 MANAGEMENT ZONE



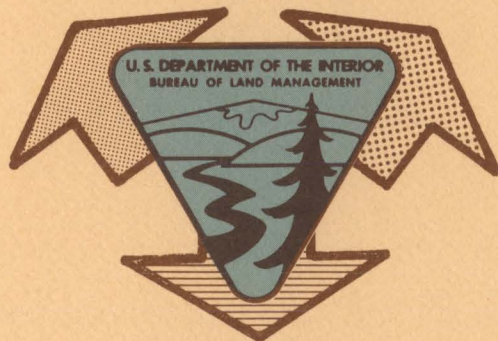
MFP Step Two: Multiple Use Recommendations



CONFLICTS



RESOLUTION



RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOURCE SPECIALISTS NOW propose alternatives to resolve the conflicts identified in the example on the last page. One of several alternatives is summarized here.

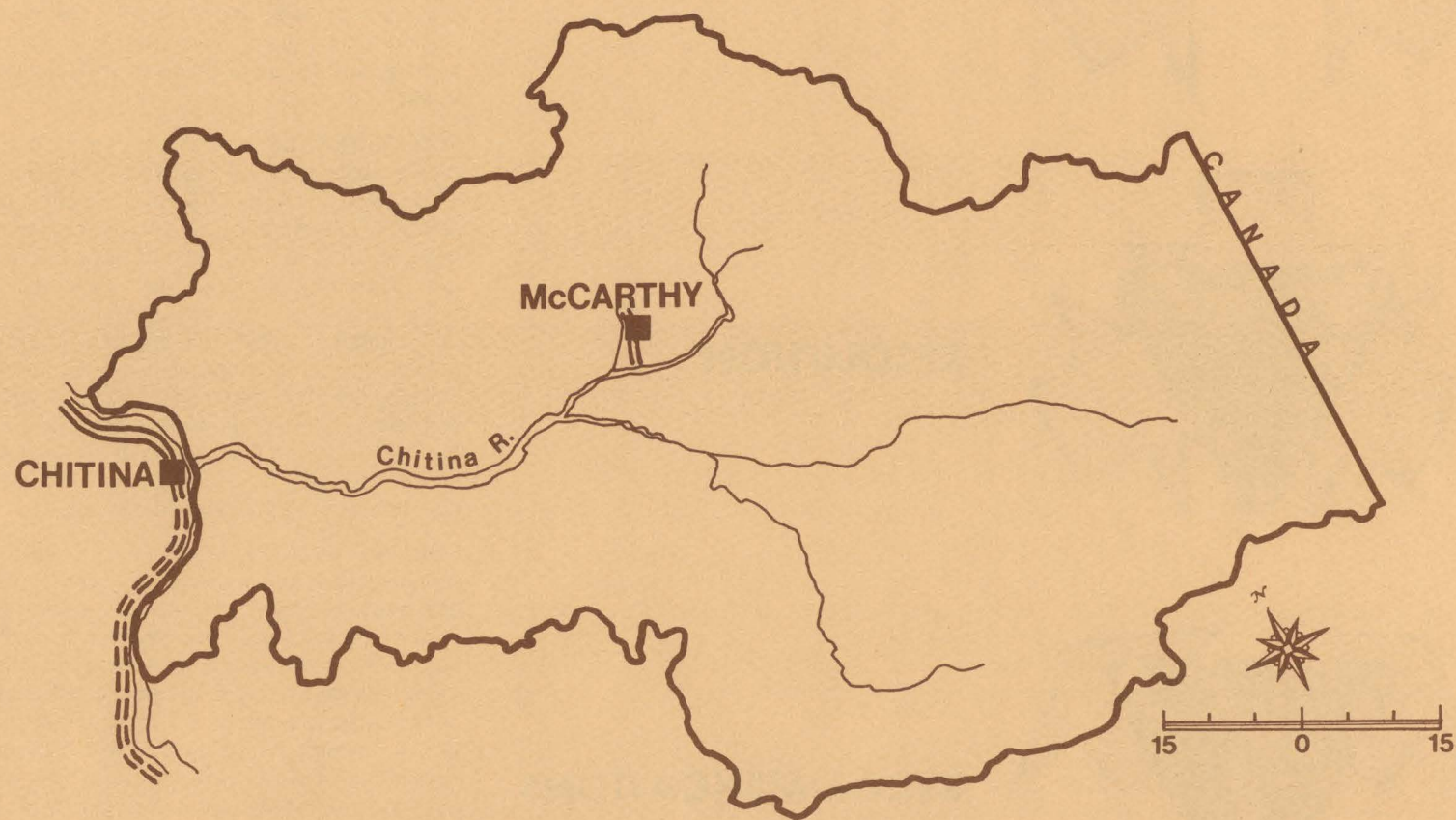
FOR RECREATION, prepare a plan for intensive recreational use of this area commensurate with present and projected demands. Developments and uses planned for this area must not degrade environmental values; recreation plans must be coordinated with mining plans and proper watershed management practices. Begin studies to determine proper locations and sizes of intensive recreation use sites to prevent soil erosion and protect vegetative mat. Provide for adequate drainage and disposal systems to avoid pollution of the Chitina River.

FOR MINERALS, encourage exploration of potential resource areas and development of known extraction areas, which will result in efficient utilization of known mineral deposits, minimum damage to other resource values, and if possible, utilization of the site for other uses after its depletion. These objectives can best be achieved by development of a comprehensive exploration-development-rehabilitation plan in conjunction with the mining companies. In this plan, restrict mineral exploration in summer to within 300 feet of streams. Set strict standards for uses which may damage the vegetative mat; and allow exploration in winter which requires use of heavy equipment, after snowpack is sufficient to prevent damage to vegetative mat. To the degree possible, coordinate mining and recreation plans.

FOR WATERSHED, continue to evaluate all existing and proposed uses in the area with regard to their effect on soils and water quality. Identify problems with present and future uses which were not considered in the analysis. Identify key erosion areas and undertake intensive practices to eliminate or reduce erosion hazards. Furnish technical assistance in design of the minerals development plan, and restrict mineral exploration in summer to within 300 feet of streams. Begin studies needed to determine proper sites for intensive recreation development which are consistent with proper watershed management.

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES such as cadastral survey, road and trail construction, and fire protection may be required as part of other activity plans and must be considered as part of this multiple-use recommendation.

The Chitina Valley Planning Unit



MFP Step Three:

Decisions

WHAT'S BEST FOR THE LAND for management purposes can be determined by considering public needs, ecosystems, resources, economics, social and other factors. All of these come together and exert their influences in the BLM planning process which leads to MFP Step Three: Decisions.

WHEN BLM BEGAN THE PLANNING process in the Chitina Valley Planning Unit, no overall priority was assigned to any specific use or uses. Before MFP Step Three takes place even the planners cannot guess what the final priority of a specific use or uses will be. MFP Step Three decisions are reached by considering specific land and resource use conflicts, proposing alternative solutions, and refining these alternatives through public participation in the decision-making process. Decisions made in this manner relate overall priorities for specific land use or uses to specified geographical areas located within the Chitina Valley Planning Unit.

ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES recommended as a multiple-use recommendation in MFP Step Two may become an MFP Step Three Decision, if input from public participation indicates the alternative is the best available solution for management. If not, changes are made.

THE MFP STEP THREE DECISION sets forth broad objectives and constraints which guide and influence the management of the Chitina Valley Planning Unit. Activity plans are then developed, using the MFP as a guide. To develop these plans, resource specialists can use the data gathered in the Unit Resource Analysis as a guide to the environment of the Chitina Valley Planning Unit.

BLM PLANNING IS DYNAMIC: a completed Unit Resource Analysis or Management Framework Plan is used as an everyday working tool in the BLM District Office. Since objectives, needs, and the effect of decisions are everchanging, continual evaluation of BLM's planning and of the results from it are a basic part of the planning system. URA's, MFP's, and Activity Plans never receive "totally final" approval; they are subject to continual evaluation and updating.

INVOLVING THE PUBLIC in the planning and decision-making process is one of BLM's greatest responsibilities. Informal public involvement takes place throughout the planning process. However, normally at this point—between the resolution of resource use conflicts and the decision on what future management should be—a formal public meeting or presentation is held. After consideration of input from the public meetings and a full staff review of any changes brought about by that input, the decisions are made.

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